

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 11 years ago today, our Nation was attacked by a group of Islamic terrorists who declared war on our country and the freedoms we cherish. The innocent civilians who were murdered by this act of terrorism will never be forgotten.

In order to protect American families, our country's military capabilities must remain the strongest in the world. Sadly, due to the President's policies and the looming threat of sequestration, our national security stands at risk. The budget reductions to defense will reduce the Navy to the smallest fleet since 1916, the smallest Army and Marine Corps since 1939, and the smallest Air Force since it was created.

House Republicans have passed legislation to save 2.14 million jobs by offering a replacement for sequestration. Unfortunately, the President has failed to show leadership and refused to act. It is my hope the liberal-controlled Senate will put aside party politics and work to prevent the weakening of our defense capabilities.

In conclusion, we will never forget the cowardly attacks of September the 11th on innocent civilians.

WELCOMING HOME SERGEANT MAJOR MARVIN L. HILL

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 11th anniversary of the attacks on our country, we should recognize the men and women who have fought so bravely for our country over the last decade.

This weekend, I had the honor of holding a welcome home ceremony in my office for Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill. Sergeant Major Hill enlisted in the Army on January 18, 1978, and served this country in a wide variety of roles for 35 years. Most recently, he was selected by General David Petraeus to serve as Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and United States forces in Afghanistan—a great honor and a very important job.

Command Sergeant Major Hill's numerous awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal for Valor, among many others.

Our city is proud of Sergeant Major Hill and all the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. I want to particularly express appreciation for all the noncommissioned officers who put their lives on the line every day and defend this Nation.

As we bring the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to an end, I look forward to welcoming home all of our brave men and women serving to protect our freedoms.

SEPTEMBER 11TH—11 YEARS LATER

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, we will never forget where we were on that fateful day 11 years ago on September 11. The images of two giants falling towards Earth will not only be remembered by those who lived through it, but will also be reborn anew with each generation of Americans through images of terror and countless stories of courage and sacrifice.

Today we come together to remember those who lost their lives on September 11 in New York City, at the Pentagon, and as part of Flight 93, and to reflect on more than a decade of a struggle to ensure future generations live free from terror.

We must also pay special tribute to our first responders and to those who have, since 9/11, donned the uniform of our Armed Forces and placed their own lives on the line to defend our country, and to the more than 6,500 who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

So let us continue to keep those who've lost their loved ones in our hearts and prayers, and may we never forget September 11.

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RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I'm proud to represent the Nation's first comprehensive cancer center, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, an amazing place that continues to turn kids into survivors.

Thirty years ago, less than 50 percent of those with childhood cancer lived beyond 5 years of their diagnosis. Today it's over 80 percent. According to the Centers for Disease Control, over the past 14 years, childhood leukemia deaths fell by 3 percent in each year.

We know that cancer research saves lives. The only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding.

Last weekend, our community held a fund-raiser, along with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, in memory of Anna Rose Leavoy, a young girl who lost her battle with cancer only 2 weeks after her second birthday.

We must recognize the urgent need to fully fund cancer research, to raise awareness for children like Anna Rose, and to find a cure.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF VIC- TIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. I rise on this somber anniversary to honor the memory of those lives lost in the attacks on September 11, 2001. For 11 years, I have stood at firehouses and schools, churches and veterans halls, and heard the stories of bravery and heroism from that terrible morning that changed America.

New Jersey lost more than 700 residents in the attacks, innocent people who were targeted in an act of war upon the Nation. Brave first responders courageously initiated rescues with their lives in danger. These stories are not new but need to be retold as a new generation comes of age and is taught of the determination of our country.

The lives lost in the ensuing battles abroad have continued to try the foundation of our will. We have proven steadfast in the commitment to our values. Our freedom and liberty have been protected by brave men and women who selflessly answer the call of service.

No matter the challenges we face, we must remember that our Nation is truly blessed. I ask all Americans today to pause and reflect on the tragedy of 9/11, and please pray for the victims and honor their memory, and please pay tribute to the men and women who serve and defend us today against the dangers we still face.

May God bless them all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

LET'S GET TO WORK

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on this day, as on every day, we should be working toward a better future for America. Yet, by almost any measure, days in session, committee markups held, bills voted on or signed into law, this is one of the least productive Congresses in more than half a century, by design.

Everyone knew last year times would be tough, but despite that, the House Republicans who control the schedule scheduled a year of congressional inaction. Their ideology dictates that Congress can and should do nothing.

There is work to be done. Where is the jobs agenda?

With just days left in this congressional session, let's get to work.

FACT-CHECKING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS RECORD

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)